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# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Natchez Trace Parkway  
2680 Natchez Trace Parkway  
Tupelo, Mississippi 38804



JUL 31 2014

### Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Natchez Trace Parkway

From: Chief Ranger, Natchez Trace Parkway

Subject: Amendment of Natchez Trace Parkway Compendium

On June 19, 2014, National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis issued a Policy Memorandum on the use of unmanned aircraft within units of the National Park Service. This Policy Memorandum requires each park to amend its Superintendent's Compendium to prohibit the use of unmanned aircraft except in very specific circumstances.

Based on this Memorandum I recommend the following amendment to the Natchez Trace Parkway Superintendent's Compendium:

**Definitions:** The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including recreation or commerce.

**Section 1.5 Closure and Public Use Limits:** Launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft from within or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of the Natchez Trace Parkway is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent.

**Justification:** There are several potential impacts of the use of unmanned aircraft within the boundaries of the Natchez Trace Parkway. First, the Natchez Trace Parkway is a narrow road corridor which is used primarily for motor vehicle travel. Unmanned aircraft could cause distractions to drivers or could potentially strike a motor vehicle if used along the roadway or the roadway corridor.

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Second, unmanned aircraft can disturb wildlife, including species covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act such as nesting bald eagles and may negatively impact the viewshed and designed landscape of the Parkway by allowing activities contradictory to a landscape uninterrupted by modern development. Finally, the Parkway is a culturally significant resource.

The area of potential effect is the entire Natchez Trace Parkway's designed cultural landscape, historical structures, and archeological and ethnographic sites within the Parkway's administrative boundary. The National Register recognizes a property's integrity through seven qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The use of unmanned aircraft near properties eligible or listed on the National Register has the potential to adversely affect the setting and feeling aspects of those sites. The closure of the Natchez Trace Parkway to unmanned aircraft eliminates the potential for adverse affect. Furthermore it reduces the potential disruption of the visitor experience in sacred sites along the Parkway, including (but not limited to) 22 burial and ceremonial mounds.

The Natchez Trace Parkway does not meet any of the specific circumstances that would allow the private or commercial use of unmanned aircraft and will not issue Special Use Permits for the private or commercial use of unmanned aircraft within the boundaries of the park. Administrative use of unmanned aircraft may be approved by the Associate Director of Visitor and Resource Protection for such purpose as scientific study, search and rescue operations, fire operations, and law enforcement. Administrative use includes the use of unmanned aircraft by (i) NPS personnel as operators or crew; (ii) cooperators such as government agencies and universities that conduct unmanned aircraft operations for the NPS pursuant to a written agreement; and (iii) other entities, including commercial entities, conducting unmanned aircraft operations for the NPS, provided such entities are in compliance with all applicable FAA and Department of the Interior requirements.

As required, an Environmental Screening Form was completed and is attached to this memorandum.

These designations will remain in effect within the Superintendent Compendium until changed by a superseding regulation.



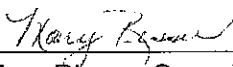
Sarah Davis, Chief Ranger

7-31-14

Date

☒ I concur

☐ I do not concur



Mary Rissler, Superintendent

7-31-14

Date